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Conference News and Announcements

Annual Youth Winter Retreat: Peacemakers: The Green Theme

WHEN: January 15-18, 2010

For all Youth ages **6th grade** through **12th grade** in the Southern **and** the Southeast Conferences of the United Church of Christ - we invite you to **REGISTER** for this amazing event!

Last year at the Annual Winter Youth Retreat at the Blowing Rock Conference Center 150 youth and adults from the Southern and Southeast Conferences gathered together to take a close look at the meaning of violence in the form of poverty and hunger and to understand how we as individuals and communities participate in creating and healing poverty and hunger.



Violence still lurks...so the conversation continues. This year we continue our theme of violence and this year we are exploring violence as it demeans our world and uses up our natural resources.

Come join youth from the Southern and Southeast Conferences of the United Church of Christ as we continue to understand how to be peacemakers. *Peacemakers: The Green Theme* will focus on our daily consumption practices that consume, spend and care for our earth and our God given resources. Together as a community of Christ we will explore the ways in which we can be instruments of God's peace in our own communities.

This Winter Retreat is a perfect opportunity for youth groups to bond, to meet UCC youth from other churches and other states and to have a day of fun in the snow. This retreat is designed for youth to stretch their spiritual muscles and to have fun meeting new friends and learning from other youth. The weekend will provide opportunity for creating new friendships, enjoying the snow, getting some exercise, eating fabulous food, spiritual growth and life changing conversation. The Rev. Da Vita D. McCallister will be our session leader and will facilitate our time around being *Peacemakers: The Green Theme*. There is something here for everyone.

Included in this packet you will find one registration form for youth and adults. Please make copies of these forms for every participant to complete. In order to register your church group, please mail back a completed form for each youth and adult member of your group along with your payment in full. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at kristingvaughn@gmail.com or call me at 336-402-2897.

CLICK HERE to download the registration form.

Peace,

Rev. Kristin Gerner Vaughn
Blowing Rock Conference Center
Annual Winter Youth Retreat
Planning Committee Chair

October 24th Board of Directors Meeting Summary

- The Board reviewed a preliminary budget for 2010 which reflects a



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- continued commitment to maintain program and staffing at current levels.
- **Cameron Trimble** reported on the development of a **Center for Progressive Renewal** to be located in the Conference offices in which the Southeast Conference is a partner.
 - **Chris Waldron** was called by the Board to serve as the new church developer for **Praxis UCC**, a new church start in Atlanta.
 - The Board reviewed the plans for a rebuilding of the conference web site to be completed by December 31st, and continued development of the Leaders' Link as a primary communication tool.
 - **Kathy Clark** reported on the continued expansion of the TAP program, as well as a transition in her work to equip people for ministry more broadly understood than simply the TAP program. She also reported on progress in bringing TAP more fully on line.
 - Tim reported on the upcoming changes in staff and job descriptions as well as other developments in information technologies for the Conference.
 - We continue to cultivate churches seeking affiliation in the Atlanta area and Alabama
 - The **2010 Annual Meeting of the Conference** will be hosted by **Church of the Savior UCC in Knoxville, TN.**
 - **Bette Thomas** reported on the UCC Southern Region Conference Ministers and Leaders meeting in Tampa, September 14th. She noted that there was not much in the way of constructive ways for conferences to engage, but that as a first step it was good to get acquainted with the issues and leadership of other conferences.
 - The Board voted to endorse the participation of the Conference as a partner in the Center for Progressive Renewal, which will be housed in the Conference offices in Atlanta.

Organization of the Southeast Conference History Project

Michael Stroud of **United Church UCC, Huntsville** is currently doing extensive research into the history of the Southeast Conference in preparation for writing a history of the Conference to be published in time for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Conference in 2016. He has asked the Board of Directors to organize a History Project Task Force of people who have an interest in the history of the UCC and its predecessor bodies in the South. Please contact Tim Downs at tdowns@secucc.org if you would like to be considered for nomination to the Task Force.



Annual Report of Christian Hospital Mungeli 2008-2009

Dr. Anil Henry is a missionary partner with the Southeast Conference, UCC. We are pleased to present his update report.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the entire report.

Out-patient Services: The numbers in the outpatient just keep on going. I think it has to do with the fact that we are in India where the Population is also growing each day. But also there may be other factors involved.

Our wild life in the OPD region has increased as from the already added aquariums that were fascinating for the village children; we now have a large aviary that the Atlanta group inaugurated this winter. There are about 60 birds in it and it is right in-front of the Operation theatre and a great joy for everyone to see. There is also a second water fall that is designed and full of colourful fish, nothing close to what people of this have experienced. Our skill with the gastroscope has surely increased as we are now performing more sclerotherapies for bleeding and elective varices. The scope has also been of great use in working with cases of tracheal stenosis and even pulling out a foreign body. We hope that we can get a bronchoscope to do that sometime which will make the task easier.

In-Patient Services: We are a 80 bed hospital which has a bed occupancy of 83.2 percent. It has been a relatively busy year with numbers of inpatients going up.

It is still interesting to see that the average hospital stay of a patient is 7.27 days. This is because of two reasons: 1. Patients come from villages which are difficult to reach and so they want all the work done and sutures removed before they

leave. 2. The cost for staying in hospital is relatively much cheaper than any other setting in a city or the western world.

We are ever so thankful to move into one of the new renovated wards and next we inaugurated the new surgical ICU/Recovery room, Delivery Room and Casualty.

We now have a total of 16 ICU beds, 8 in the medical ICU, 7 in the surgical ICU and a isolation bed/treatment room which we have already been able to use and save a very sick tetanus patient.

We also realized that the ICU facilities are highly used and so the moment we had the surgical ICU built, we immediately renovated the medical ICU which had been heavily overused for the past four years. All these areas are now air-conditioned and with the help of monitors for each bed, ventilators and also a syringe pump we feel that we are getting closer to managing the more difficult patients. One patient of course, was Mom who was in the ICU for about two weeks.

We also have a new nursery which has eight beds and this too is a great service as there is nothing like it anywhere around.

We are now almost finished with redoing and renovating the ground floor of the ward. This was the only space that was accessible to me when I joined here six years ago. After this, we will be working on the first floor with new flooring and tiles on the wall to make things look good and clean.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the entire report.

Georgia-South Carolina Association In Care Committee Meets October 31

The Georgia-South Carolina In Care Committee met October 31st and in addition to hearing updates from each of the students in care, acted to recommend the renewal of the in care status of the following people: **Charmaine Johnson, Victory Church**, Stone Mountain, **Leslie Raymer, Virginia-Highland Church**, Atlanta, **John and Rebecca Shillingburg, Church of the Savior**, Roswell, **Michelle Calderon, Central Congregational UCC**, Atlanta, **Ronnie Galvin and Terri Lawrence of First Congregational UCC**, Atlanta, **Carolyn Hayford, and Elizabeth Lorick of Circular Congregational UCC**, Charleston, and **Karen Mann and David Sigmund of Kirkwood UCC**, Atlanta.

Further, they are recommending that student in care status be limited to no more than five years until a person appears before an ecclesiastical council, and that if they are found to be ordainable pending a call, they can continue for up to three more years. After that they would need to request a renewal of their status.

East Alabama-West Georgia Association Holds Annual Meeting October 10th



The East Alabama-West Georgia Association held its Annual Meeting October 10th at **Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church in Pine Mountain, GA**. Associate Conference Minister Kathy Clark introduced the new direction to authorizing ministry in the United Church of Christ, Multiple Paths to Ministry. The associate renewed the licenses for ministry of **Rip Hardman, Hugh Hogan and Jim Johnson**. **Don Harmon, of Lanett Congregational Christian Church** continues as moderator and treasurer of the association, **Betty Moon of Sandy Creek UCC**, as secretary. Committee chairs remained unchanged.

Posted on November 23, 2009

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